

REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 1-10 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 3, 9 and 10 are independent. Claims 1-10 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-10 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In response, Applicants have amended the claims, as set forth in detail below, to overcome the rejections specified in the Office Action. Further, with respect to claim 3, Applicants note that this claim was neither rejected, nor objected to. Accordingly, claim 3 is believed to be allowable. Should any other informalities remain in the claims, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if these informalities can be settled by telephone or in-person interview.

Claim Objections

Claim 10 was objected to because in line 5, after “passed”, “through” should be inserted. Applicants have amended claim 10, and respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 2 and 4-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 stands rejected as being vague and indefinite because in the last line it is unclear what “the outside” is relative to. Claims 4-8 depend from rejected claim 1. In response, Applicants have amended claim 1, and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 2 stands rejected as being vague and indefinite because in the first three lines of the second paragraph the claim sets forth that the compressed fluid is extracted through the combustor outer casing. In response, Applicants have amended claim 2, and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 7 stands rejected as being vague and indefinite because it sets forth in lines 13-16 that the main housing can be inserted and withdrawn in the axial direction. The Office Action asserts that it is not the main housing which is able to be


withdrawn axially, since the main housing is the surrounding member, and instead it is the transition ducts which are capable of being inserted and withdrawn radially. In response, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to page 12, line 14, through page 13, line 4, of Applicants' specification. Here it is described that the transition inner duct 12 and the transition outer duct 13 are contained in the main housing 6 and the partition members 15, 25 can be inserted in place externally of the main housing 6. Further, it is also described that, in the state in which the partition members 15, 25 are removed, the transition inner duct 12 and the transition outer duct 13 are contained so as to position completely within the main housing 6, and the main housing 6 is attached to a separate suction casing 18. Therefore, the main housing 6 can be freely inserted and withdrawn in the axial direction regardless of the parts disposed inside the main housing 6. Such a structure allowing the main housing 6 to be freely inserted and withdrawn in the axial direction is realized by constructing the partition members 15, 25 separately from both the transition inner duct 12 and the transition outer duct 13 (see also FIGS. 1, 2 and 6). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 7 is not vague or indefinite, and is supported by Applicants' specification and drawings. In view of the foregoing explanation, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7.

Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected for lacking proper antecedence for the term "said combustor outer..." In response, Applicants have amended claims 9 and 10, and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,


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